San Diego is once again invited to celebrate all things Polish

By DAVE SCHWAB

A Polish Catholic Church named for a Franciscan friar who voluntarily died in place of a stranger at the Auschwitz concentration camp is hosting its 18th annual Polish Festival Oct. 11-13 on the church grounds at 1735 Grand Ave.

The festival at St. Maximilian Kolbe Roman Catholic Church is a celebration of all things Polish, as well as a fundraiser for the church, helping it maintain its facilities and carry out its humanitarian mission.

One of the most popular ethnic festivals in Pacific Beach, the Polish festival attracts as many as 5,000 people from all around San Diego, as well as international visitors during its three-day stint.

"It’s a celebration of our culture," said Bogdan Maziara, a Polish Festival Committee church member.

Maziara said the festival, which charges $3 for admission, is an open invitation to San Diegans to become better acquainted with Polish Americans.

“It’s there for Americans to come and see what Poland is all about,” Maziara said, adding traditional Polish cuisine like pierogis (dumplings stuffed with sauerkraut or potato and cheese), golabki (meat-stuffed cabbage rolls), bigos (hunter’s stew), potato pancakes and famous grilled kielbasa (Polish sausage) are worth the turnout. The festival menu is rounded out with Polish pastries and soft drinks, coffee and tea.

To go along with the repast is a beer garden for ages 21 and up, which will feature well-known Polish beers like Zywiec, Okocim and Warka.

And don’t forget the entertainment, said Maziara.

"On stage we will have groups presenting traditional dance in costumes from different regions of Poland,” he said. “They are very colorful.”

Entertainment will include Polish folk-dance groups Polonez from San Diego and Krakusy from Los Angeles, as well as a polka band and a DJ who will entertain festival guests until close.

St. Maximilian’s festival “is meant for the whole family to come and enjoy,” said Maziara.

Father Jerzy Frydrych of Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe said the church’s primary mission is to “serve the needs of Polish people.” Part of that is having Mass said in Polish.

San Diego is once again invited to celebrate all things Polish
"People prefer their national language during clergy," Frydrych said, adding there is a Saturday service in English.

Noting St. Maximilian was built in 1995 to serve the Polish community, Frydrych said funds raised from the annual festival "go to renovate the church." He said improvements have included stained-glass windows and a new church sanctuary.

During World War II, the church’s namesake, Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe, provided shelter to refugees from greater Poland, including 2,000 Jews whom he hid from Nazi persecution in his friary, according to a Polish website dedicated to him. Kolbe was arrested by the German Gestapo and imprisoned.

In July 1941, a man from Kolbe’s barracks vanished, prompting the deputy camp commander to pick 10 men from the same barracks to be starved to death in order to deter further escape attempts. One of the selected men was a young husband and father, and Kolbe volunteered to take his place.

During the time in the cell, Kolbe led the men in songs and prayer. After three weeks of dehydration and starvation, only he and three others were still alive. Finally, he was murdered with an injection of carbolic acid.

Father Kolbe was beatified as a confessor by Pope Paul VI in 1971 and was canonized by Pope John Paul II on Oct. 10, 1982. Upon canonization, the Pope declared St. Maximilian Kolbe not a confessor, but a martyr.

For those who want to learn more about St. Maximilian church and also join in prayer, daily Mass and tours of the church will be offered. Veneration of the relics of Blessed John Paul II, St. Sister Faustina, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Padre Pio and other saints will also be offered.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward the parish, the main goal being the continued renovation of St. Maximilian Kolbe Roman Catholic Church. For more information, visit www.polishmission.org/festival/index.php or call (858) 272-7655.

Mission Bay High School received another face lift in the past month with landscaping improvements on the curbside east of the parking lot along Buccaneer Way to increase its sustainability. Mission Bay High School Alumni Association president Pam Deitz collaborated with the San Diego Unified School District to help improve the landscaping appearance.

“I approached Tom Beck, the SDUSD Landscaping Services supervisor, to make the area more appealing while the school district paid for the work,” Deitz said.

The results were four brand-new white orchid trees and a specially designed drought-tolerant hybrid grass. Drought-tolerant trees and flowers are effective in areas that receive a full day of sunlight and help reduce the amount of time and money spent on irrigation maintenance.

— Keith Antigiovanni

Mission Bay High School got a sustainable facelift (before, left; after, right) with the landscaping of the curbside east of its parking lot. Funds for the project came from the Seaside Farmers Market.

Farmers market works to make MBHS more sustainable

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Drysuits: outerwear for inner-space astronauts

By JUDITH LEA GARFIELD

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TIDE LINES

TREK through outer space may not be an option for most, but inner-space travel is doable for those with a dry certification card and access to a body of water. For either realm, dressing for success is not so different in that NASA’s space suits have informed scuba divers’ drysuits.

Although modern versions of the drysuit have been around since the late 1980s, they remain a novel sighting for many beachgoers.

Drysuit fabric keeps water out so that I stay dry except for my head and hands, which I encase in good old neoprene (wetsuit material). By keeping most of my body dry, I can conserve heat without wasting energy warming the layer of water between my skin and the neoprene (the blubber-layer concept behind a wetsuit). Because a drysuit shell provides no warmth, I don layers of polar fleece underneath.

A drysuit’s valves allow for air to enter and exit the suit while keeping water out. To inflate my suit for buoyancy and comfort, I press on the inlet valve located on the drysuit’s upper chest area. A hose provides the conduit from the valve to the very same air tank from which I also breathe. To release, I press the exhaust valve on the upper arm. Below the surface, I still need to regulate air in and out. For instance, as I sink, I get heavier and heavier due to increasing outside pressure that goes hand in hand with increasing depth. This results in my being squeezed like those food storage devices that suck out the air in a bag (drysuit of leftovers (diver) and controlling my descent (a braking system).

To learn more about drysuit mechanics (seals and zipper), actual diving in a drysuit, and a drysuit’s connection to NASA’s space suits, read my full article at www.TideLines.org.

— Judith Lea Garfield, naturalist and underwater photographer, has authored two natural history field guides about the underwater park off La Jolla Cove and La Jolla Shores. www.TideLines.org; juditbg@TideLines.org

Space Suit

Drysuits collectively sport an exhaust valve located on the upper arm to release air, an inlet valve on the chest (a separate hose attachment connects the valve to the scuba tank) to input air, latex neck and wrist seals, and a cross-body zipper for entry and exit. Drysuits include the feet parts, which divers often protect by wearing soft-soled lightweight boots or sometimes high-top sneakers.

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A back-zip suit is still very popular, as it is the easiest suit to put on and take off. Most of the better brands will place an extra piece of thin neoprene across the inside back of the suit to keep the cold ocean water that penetrates through the zipper from constantly flushing the body-warmed water out. Chest-zip suits will have zippers that will run either straight across or at a gradual slant from high to low and from shoulder to shoulder. This type of zipper eliminates the restraints of having a bulky zipper running up your spine. It also leads to a better-sealed suit resulting in less water flushing in and out.

Not all neoprene is created equal, but how much stretch do you really need? All top-brand wetsuit manufacturers use super-stretch materials in at least 75 percent of their suits. In the higher-range models, 100 percent super-stretch is used. This may make the suit more comfortable, but it will often shorten the life expectancy as it will stretch out and break down more quickly. Thickness of full wetsuits run in millimeters, ranging between 3/2 and 4/3 in general, though they can thicken up more in truly cold-water areas. With the flexibility available in the thicker 4/3 suits now, many people are going this route to further increase their water time for those dawn patrol sessions on the coldest of winter days.

Decent entry-level GBS suits start at about $130, with high-end models edging up close to $600. All will get the job done, so let fit and budget decide which is best for you.

Go surfing!

Do you have a question for Bird? Send them to bbp@sdnews.com
Pacific Beach man involved in fitness center theft scandal back in court

By NEAL PUTNAM

A Pacific Beach man — already on probation for grand theft when he worked at a Mission Beach fitness center — pleaded guilty Sept. 11 to commercial burglary of a check-cashing business.

The probation for Christopher Antonio Polley, 27, was revoked and he will be sentenced on Oct. 7 in San Diego Superior Court on both cases. said Deputy District Attorney Brendan McHugh.

Polley will not receive more than a year in jail, and Judge Laura Halgren agreed to “consider alternatives to custody; including work furlough,” according to court records. If Polley has a job that qualifies for a work-furlough facility, he could spend nights and weekends in that facility if not given jail time.

McHugh said the new case involves Polley cashing a payroll check for $1,500 at a check-cashing business after he had already cashed the check in his bank via a smart-phone deposit in which he scanned his check with the phone. McHugh said the business lost no money because the bank already cashed his check.

His attorney, Jim Fitzpatrick, said Polley did deposit the check via his smart phone to his bank and then learned there would be a delay in getting his money. Fitzpatrick said Polley then cancelled the deposit, and then cashed the check at the business without realizing the bank didn’t have it.

“He’s going to go back on probation,” said Fitzpatrick.

The burglary charge alleges that Polley entered the store March 6 with the intent to commit theft and it does not involve a break-in. Other charges of grand theft and obtaining money by false pretenses were dismissed.

Polley is still paying about $20,000 in restitution on his 2012 convictions for grand theft, false impersonation and using another person’s identification that he lifted when he worked at the Wavehouse. He was sentenced a year ago to 90 days in jail.

No member of the fitness center lost money, and the victims were eBay and PayPal, said Fitzpatrick. Polley used actual members names from the center to create fictional auctions and continues to no longer works at the fitness center.

Polley, who served four years with the Coast Guard, remains free on $25,000 bond.

One of seven in Sentrizercromthecas

Fifteen days of public work service with credit for 33 days in jail was the sentence Sept. 20 to one of seven people who were charged with distributing methamphetamine for sale with the owner of the Mission Bay Sportcenter.

Joe Livingston Bean, 52, is not an employee of the Sportcenter, whose owner Jason Morgan Boone, 40, is the alleged ringleader. Boone allegedly stored methamphetamine in the lockers of the business, but is the only employee charged.

Bean is now living in a residential drug-treatment center and was placed on three years probation by San Diego Superior Court Judge Jeff Fraser, who suspended a 147-day jail sentence. He was fined more than $2,100.

“He’s not a dealer. He sells (drugs) to support his habit,” said Bean’s attorney, Nicholas De Pente.

Deputy District Attorney Jorge Del Portillo said he believed Bean had a bigger role in the scheme than just selling meth to support his own habit.

Bean told the judge he was addicted to methamphetamine and alcohol, but not at the same time. He told Fraser, “I could kill someone with alcohol” if he used a vehicle, but “I wouldn’t kill anyone with meth.”

Fraser said he presided over a drug court session once in which he asked if there was anyone in the 100 seat courtroom who had not sold drugs to support their habit, and not a single person raised their hand. He said it was a very common crime.

Bean said he was once clean for seven years, and he believes he can do it again. He has been convicted of DUI with injury.

Boone and five others have their preliminary hearing set for Oct. 23. They have all pleaded not guilty to charges of possession, transportation, and sales of methamphetamine following their June 5 arrests. All remain free on bond.

AN EXPLOSION IN A SUSPECTED DRUG LAB at an apartment on Grand Avenue, in San Diego Beach-Fire-Rescue Department spokesman said.

Windows in the building along an alley near Grand Avenue and Thomas Street near Noyes Street blew out about 6:50 p.m., police and fire authorities said.

Witnesses said the apartment was on fire, but flames were out by the time firefighters arrived, San Diego Fire-Rescue spokesman Maurice Luque said.

Luque said paramedics found one man injured in the explosion on the damaged second-floor of the apartment.

Another victim in the explosion had fled the scene, but later required medical attention from paramedics at Mission Boulevard and Toulon Court in Mission Bay.

Luque said one man suffered serious injuries while the other man's injuries were considered moderate.

Authorities said both men were taken to hospitals for treatment.

The incident was being investigated by the Police Metro Arson Strike Team and hazardous materials crews.

— Dave Schwab

OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN PB — San Diego police homicide detectives are investigating an officer-involved shooting during which an officer shot a suspect allegedly advancing on him with a metal object who failed to comply with an order to stop.

San Diego police Lt. Jorge Duran said the incident occurred Sept. 21 about 3:43 p.m. in the 1000 block of Garnet Avenue.

Duran said a patrol officer was flagged down by two citizens who reported they saw one man chashing another man with what appeared to be a knife.

“The witnesses pointed to a man walking westbound in the 1000 block of Garnet Avenue,” Duran said. “The witnesses identified the man as the suspect with the knife.”

The officer requested assistance and observed the suspect walking in his direction, Duran said.

“The suspect made eye contact with the officer and immediately reached into his clothing and pulled out a silver metal object,” Duran said. “The officer ordered the suspect to drop the object and get on the ground. The suspect did not comply and instead advanced toward the officer with the object in his hand. Fearing he was about to be stabbed, the officer fired one round from his duty weapon striking the suspect.”
A permanent fixture along North Harbor Drive since 1937, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector San Diego territory extends 200 nautical miles offshore and includes lakes running through Arizona and southern parts of Utah and Nevada. Five hundred active duty, reserve and civilian personnel serve with 600 auxiliary volunteers, providing around-the-clock coverage for the protection and preservation of San Diego's coastline.

The helm is Capt. Sean Mahoney, Sector San Diego commander and captain of the port. Two years into his three-year term, Mahoney sat down with the San Diego Community Newspaper Group to discuss USCG operations and the critical function his organization serves in the beach community and throughout the region.

The three focuses of Coast Guard Sector San Diego, according to Mahoney, are maritime safety, which includes its trademark search-and-rescue missions and prevention of tragedies through inspecting vessels; maritime security operations, including securing the port, escorting vessels, abating drug smuggling and human trafficking; and maritime stewardship, or the preservation of the environment through such activities as responding to oil spills and species protection from unauthorized fishing operations.

Mahoney said the southwest border and proximity to Mexico is the key factor influencing activities that take place at Sector San Diego. Drug seizures and human trafficking are on the rise as smugglers get more brazen and desperate to operate with tightening enforcement along land borders.

According to Mahoney, 25,000 lbs. of marijuana were intercepted in 2011 by the USCG in Southern California. By 2012, this amount had grown to 118,000 lbs., and so far this year, 80,000 lbs. have been seized. Smugglers, using both panga boats — open-hulled Mexican fishing boats — and recreational boats trying to blend in with typical boating traffic, are making perilous voyages at night and landing farther north on the coastline trying to evade capture. In response, air support from Coast Guard C130 aircraft and helicopters and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Air and Marine Operations becomes ever more vital to enforcement, said Mahoney. San Diego’s closest neighboring Coast Guard sector is Los Angeles/Long Beach.

The Coast Guard is unique in terms of military branches in that it is the only operation that falls under the Department of Homeland Security. Therefore, it has law enforcement authority. Coast Guard teams can board vessels, conduct investigations and regulate and patrol special events that take place on the water. Special Coast Guard units, for example, deploy with Navy ships in Central America because they have the authority to board vessels where their naval counterparts do not. This follows a general trend of the USCG’s shift of focus to law enforcement.

“There’s more of a maritime homeland security focus than we had prior to the attacks of 9/11,” said Mahoney. “The Coast Guard [used to be] more focused on search and rescue, but after 9/11, we brought maritime security to the forefront.”

As far as the men and women who serve at Sector San Diego (about 20 percent of local personnel are female), Mahoney said it’s a combination of skill and determination that makes them so successful at what they do.

“They have to be professional and they have to have a can-do attitude,” said Mahoney. “That’s the key right there. And they have to show respect for everybody, peers or subordinates or seniors alike. They have to treat everyone with respect.”

A coveted bid typically chosen by USCG members with seniority, Sector San Diego attracts some of the organization’s top talent. Some of the few young single members who live in barracks on the base, a 2.3-acre bayfront location across from Lindbergh Field, most personnel reside in San Diego communities with their families, including Mahoney, who lives in Point Loma with his wife and one of their two daughters who attends Point Loma Nazarene University. While figures of the economic impact Sector San Diego makes to the region are unavailable, it is likely sizable due to sheer volume of Coast Guard families residing throughout the county, Mahoney said. When asked about the effects of sequestration, Mahoney said that while Sector San Diego initially saw a drop in patrol hours for aircraft, small boats and cutters, the sequestration guidelines allow operational commanders discretion to determine where those cuts can be made. Their district commander has restored most of the patrol to levels almost the same as prior to the sequestration, though it has impacted travel and other administrative tasks.

“We’re able to manage it at this point,” he said.

One of Mahoney’s goals during his tenure as commander is to ensure the highest level of proficiency is kept among his crew. This can be challenging, given job descriptions may include duties like shooting out engines of fleeing speedboats, conducting hoists over rocking ships at night while wearing night-vision goggles and conducting marine inspections where the
On Sept. 28, Brick by Brick will host a three-tribute-band night, topped by all-female groups Led Zeppelin-imersonators Lady Zep and Black Sabbath-doppelgangers Black Sabbath. As fine as those groups are, hard-rock fans will want to get there early to catch opener Jester’s Fate. A terrific live group, Jester’s Fate is a cover band, though uniquely, its set does include occasional originals in the same vein as the classics. It also has a great set list, mixing the obvious classics like “Surrender” or “Born To Be Wild” with less-often heard cover material like Boston’s “Fireplay/Long time” or a hard rock recasting of Duran Duran’s “Hungry Like The Wolf.” If you are a fan of classic rock, this show promises to be highly entertaining. JESTER’S FATE: Saturday, Sept. 28 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave, 7 p.m. and up. $12. www.brickbybrick.com

Stylistically, singer Rebecca Jade’s music covers a lot of ground, but her voice is all about soul. A member of such local favorites as The Jade Effect, Siren’s Crush and The Soultones, this hard-working musician’s backing combos may vary, but her vocals, warm and smooth, carry emotion that really sells the songs she sings. Appearing as a solo performer at the Kona Kai Resort lounge on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m., Jade’s music includes standards but her original material like the seductive “Carried Away” is top notch and will especially appeal to jazz and R&B aficionados, as well anyone who likes their music with a soulful groove. REBECCA JADE: Friday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m. at the KONA KAI RESORT LOUNGE, 1551 Shelter Island Drive. www.resortkonakai.com

Latest month, vocalist Allison Adams Tucker will head out on a tour of Japan, but first she’ll present a special concert on Oct. 6, Jazz Voice of the 1960s: The Bossa Nova Boom, Betty Carter, Brubeck & Beyond at Diary’s. The title of the show may be unwieldy, but it is descriptive and shows the broad range of Tucker’s interpretive talents. With a backing group of world-class musicians, including pianist Danny Green, bassist Bob Magnusson, drummer Duncan Moore and saxophonist Trigg Sprague, as well as material from arguably the greatest decade for music, this is a show jazz vocal fans won’t want to miss. SEE MUSIC >> PG. 14
The real-estate industry was delivered a bombshell Sept. 23 with the revelation that one of the biggest names in the business would be made even bigger as Prudential California officially became Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties (BHHS).

One of the top five brokerages nationwide, Prudential California has built a reputation on its name over several decades. What a heavy-weight like Berkshire Hathaway can bring to such a trusted name is more exposure — and an exclusivity of sail bay from roomy 2br 2ba condo at this very well planned complex...so many special amenities, including pool, spa, barbecues, community room, lovely landscaping. Very professional exercise room with great equipment and showers. Steps to the sand and bike path. Offered at $996,950

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Prudential California makes waves with name change

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One of the top five brokerages nationwide, Prudential California has built a reputation on its name over several decades. What a heavy-weight like Berkshire Hathaway can bring to such a trusted name is more exposure — and an exclusivity that can’t be rivaled. David Cabot, CEO of the former Prudential California, explained that when Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, decided to dip into the real-estate industry, he took the opportunity to put a household name on a product for the first time.

“In the last year and a half, Warren Buffett made a decision to become more involved in the real-estate business and he decided to lend his name — the Berkshire Hathaway name — to that,” Cabot said. “This is the first time that name has been used in this industry, and it’s a really remarkable event. We’re fortunate that we are the first company in the nation to take on that new brand name.”

Prudential California had been operating under Berkshire Hathaway-affiliate HomeServices of America for a little over a year, and the changeover to the new name was a process of “months and months and months,” Cabot said. What would prompt an already well-known brand to make such a switch is the prestige that comes with it and the limitless prospects for the future, he said.

“Berkshire Hathaway is the No. 1 most recognized and respected company in the world,” Cabot said. “It has been known for decades as a stable company and whatever they buy will continue to operate forever. This represents a dramatic shift in how this business is operated. They don’t do something for five or 10 years. It says something, especially in our markets, that we’re here for the next 100 years.”

Prudential California’s high earning potential and the fact that La Jolla holds the No. 1 spot in the chain may have had something to do with its being honored as the first 100 years.”

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The change to the new name is an honor and a reflection of how she always does business.

“I feel we’re a pretty great group of people. What this signifies is more of that challenge to go from great to extraordinary. We’re always looking for ways to elevate the client’s experience more.”

The only ones who might take issue with the change, Cabot said, are competitors.

“We’ve been so anxious and excited for this change, and our competitors have also been anxious and excited,” he said. “It’s been interesting to see their reaction. Prudential has always been the target of aggressive recruiting [of agents to other companies], but how do you say something bad about Berkshire Hathaway? We’ll continue to see attempted recruiting, but it’s going to be more difficult [for competitors].”

Judging from the level of excitement from those now employed by BHHS, that just may prove to be true.

“It’s so exciting. I’m so proud to say [I’m] working for Berkshire Hathaway,” Marcellino said. “It truly gives me goose bumps.”

For information on Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties, visit www.bhhscaifornia.com.

After a number of conversations, it came down to the thought that what better place than Southern California to roll out this new name,” he said. “And really, the real estate in Southern California is not about real estate — it’s about the agents. We have some of the most talented professionals in the business, and we’re able to build up business and dominate the market, quite honestly, by virtue of the people working here.”

Nicki Marcellino, branch manager for the La Jolla office, said the change to the new name is an honor and a reflection of how she always does business.

“My mantra is always to go from great to extraordinary,” she said. “We’re the No. 1 in the country and San Diego, and I feel we’re a pretty great group of people. What this signifies is more of that challenge to go from great to extraordinary. We’re always looking for ways to elevate the client’s experience more.”

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“It’s so exciting. I’m so proud to say [I’m] working for Berkshire Hathaway,” Marcellino said. “It truly gives me goose bumps.”

For information on Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties, visit www.bhhscaifornia.com.
There are many wonderful outdoor festivals in San Diego each year, but only one truly takes advantage of its location — Pacific BeachFest. Now in its 17th year, the event takes place on Oct. 5. Marking the unofficial end of summer, the free, family-friendly event takes place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the boardwalk between Diamond and Thomas streets. More than 50,000 people are expected to spend part of their day at the festival.

To be sure, Pacific BeachFest has much in common with similarly styled happenings around the city. Lots of booths with handcrafted items and food vendors and plenty of music, to be sure. But what makes Pacific BeachFest special is the physical activities the public is invited to take part in.

Among the day’s highlights on the beach will be Revolt in Style magazine’s Summer Surf Series Finals beginning at 8 a.m. at Crystal Pier; a volleyball tournament starting at 9 a.m.; and a 5k run kicking off at 10:30 a.m. For those 12 and under, there will also be a 1k run just prior to the main event, as well as skateboarding and bike-riding demonstrations in Action Alley on Thomas Avenue. Additionally, there will be a Kids’ Action Alley, complete with surf simulator on the boardwalk at Grand Avenue.

While there are numerous food options on the day, including a Best of PB Food Court, a popular part of this annual event is the Best of the Beach Fish Taco Challenge, featuring food from some of the area’s best-known restaurants like the PB Shore Club, Oscars Mexican Seafood, The Fish Shop, Moondoggies, PB Alehouse and the Sandbar Sports Grill. It’s this sort of community spirit, involving local merchants and the public, which makes Pacific BeachFest so special. Other community interaction includes sidewalk sales from area shops and an artist’s alley featuring handmade items from local artisans.

But that’s just the tip of the iceberg. The event packs a lot into its eight hours, even for those a little less athletically inclined, with three stages of continuous entertainment kicking off at 11 a.m.

The main Beer Garden Stage will feature a mix of DJs and bands with reggae favorites Sunny Rude, Natural Heights, So Cal Vibes and Hightide all taking part, alongside DJ Elliot Thomas, DJ Billy The Kid, DJ Who and DJ Mike Czech. Singer-songwriter Sando opens.

Meanwhile, the Center Stage will be topped by R&B whirlwinds Lady Dottie & The Diamonds, with other artists on the bill set to include the Cool Soul Trio, Bateke Beat, Alas de Mosca and The Routine.

Finally, the Community Stage will open with a performance from the Crown Point Jr. Music Academy, with appearances from the Tap Fever Dancers, the PB Kids Musical Showcase, The Simmer Down Riddim Section, Tiffany Jane and the Kicks, The Big Daddy Blues Band and Indian Summer. There will also be a “Skate This!” demonstration at 11:40 a.m.

With its great mix of sun, surf, music, food and especially community, it’s clear the Pacific BeachFest is the best way to celebrate the end of another glorious summer in San Diego.

As with any large event in San Diego, taking public transportation is recommended. Free valet bicycle parking is available at Thomas Street.

**PACIFIC BEACHFEST** takes place beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5 from DIAMOND TO THOMAS STREETS. www.pacificbeachfest.org
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Diego’s serves up a gourmet take on an American favorite

A New Jersey contractor for 20 years who figured he’d open a bar when he moved his wife and three children to San Diego after the economy crashed a couple of years ago ended up in the restaurant business here.

Go figure.

But David Caccavo, owner of Diego’s Dogs and Sliders at 4150 Mission Blvd. #113 in the Promenade at Pacific Beach Shopping Center, doesn’t question fate. He reveals it in it.

Getting into the restaurant business in San Diego was a risky proposition. Especially given that Caccavo had no previous experience whatsoever.

“I finished building a house for my brother and I thought I might as well stay and do something here,” he said. “I’ve never worked for anybody, and I didn’t want to work for anybody.”

A hard worker, Caccavo bent himself to the task of finding the right bar-restaurant to put his mark on. But the search proved tougher than expected.

“Some of the ones for sale were really dumpy and needed to be all redone,” Caccavo said, who conducted a thorough search before he finally happened on his current space in the promenade, which was “clean and built-out already.” The space, just around the corner from Tony Roma’s, had previously been, among other things, a submarine sandwich shop.

Caccavo’s decision on what kind of food to serve in his new restaurant was just as spontaneous as his decision to move out to the West Coast.

“When I came out here, food seemed pretty bland compared to what I was used to,” he said. “I went to get a hot dog, but I couldn’t find a place I liked. They were all hot-dog-on-a-stick or hot-dog stands. They were horrible.”

So what Pacific Beach really needed, Caccavo determined, was a gourmet hot-dog place like the ones they have back east. Now, for the name of this new East Coast-like gourmet hot-dog spot. Diego became the name, but it had nothing to do whatsoever with San Diego.

“We named our dog Diego in... See Diegos >> PG. 13
Papa Luna’s offers an Argentinean alternative to typical finger food

Argentine-style, pastry-like empanadas are the featured menu item at Papa Luna’s at 1404 Garnet Ave. and the latest culinary craze catching on in Pacific Beach.

“A Latin American delicacy with European roots, an empanada is dough wrapped around a tasty filling. It is the specialty of the house at Papa Luna’s owned by Simon Baer, who studied abroad in Buenos Aires between 2006 and 2008 before moving to the States, bringing the Argentinean delight with him.”

Baer said he came to Pacific Beach to treat San Diegos to international fare and South American flair. “Empanadas are baked turnovers, like a pirogi or a mini calzone that can be either sweet or savory,” said Baer. “Every country has its own take on it.”

Buenos Aires burrito: Papa Luna’s empanadas are filled with everything from Philly cheese steak to goat cheese and sausage. COURTESY PHOTO

“People like to mix and match, hang in Diego’s Dogs. Caccavo promises you won’t find a better — or more custom-made — hot dog anywhere else in PB. “I have a Chicago-style dog, a Sonoran dog and a PB fried dog, which has bacon wrapped around it with chili, coleslaw and jalapeño peppers,” he said, adding bland is now blasé.

Gourmet dogs at Diego’s range from $4.50 to $7. And what are hot dogs without hamburgers? Not just any hamburgers though, but sliders, created custom, of course, à la Caccavo. “The sliders are little 2-ounce burgers,” he said. “It’s all fresh meat. All certified Angus.” Sliders, which cost $3 for a single, $5.75 for a duo and $8.50 for a trio, are served up in classic (sauteed onions and cheddar cheese), red rock (bacon, crispy fried onions and secret sauce), gobbler (turkey with portabella mushrooms) and spicy Mexi (vegetarian black beans, spices and cheddar) varieties. “People like to mix and match, have a classic with a red rock and a gobbler,” Caccavo said, adding his rosemary fries with garlic and sea salt, as well as his Jersey disco fries — steak fries with melted mozzarella cheese and gravy — are both crowd pleasers.

For more information, call (858) 581-3647 or visit www.diegosdogs.com.
OCT. 12: URBAN SURF 4 KIDS PADDLE FEST
WHERE: Bonita Cove at Mission Bay, 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: $45 elite long course (6 miles); $35 short course (2 miles); $49 HeadSUP Battle (100-yard, two-person relay course for beginners)
WHAT: Nonprofit Urban Surf 4 Kids, which provides surf camps, swimming lessons and other activities for foster kids in San Diego, hosts the annual Paddle Fest as a fundraiser for “Dreaming of Aloha,” an achievement program allowing foster youth to earn a trip to Hawaii in December. The event features stand-up paddleboarding races, live music, food and vendor expo, and a raffle. www.urbanursurf4kids.org

OCT. 4-27, 31: BOOmont PARK
WHERE: Belmont Park
HOW MUCH: Free admission and parking for Belmont Park; free trick-or-treating; pumpkin patch prices vary; $6 admission to BOOmont Manor Mansion; $6 Speokey Coaster; $7.95 Zombie Laser Tag
WHAT: For the first time ever, Belmont Park is transforming on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the month of October for the Halloween season.

SEPT. 26: PAESAN BBQ
WHERE: Crown Point Shores Rotary Club Pavilion, 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $5
WHAT: The 33rd annual Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night, organized by the Pacific Beach Town Council, honors police, firefighters, park rangers and life-guards. This year’s major benefactor is local Fire Station 21 to help raise funds for the station’s kitchen. Event includes barbeque dinner, side dishes and dessert, a kids’ area with free games, face painting, popcorn, prizes and more.

OCT. 5: FIREHOUSE AND TRUE BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT
WHERE: 710 Grand Ave., 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: $100 per team
WHAT: Hosted by The Firehouse American Eatery & Lounge and True Beach, the tournament features men’s and women’s open divisions, limited to 10 teams per division, compete for a total $4,000 prize pool. truebeach.org

MUSIC >>
CONT. FROM PG. 7
ALLISON ADAMS TUCKER: Sunday, Oct. 6, at DIZZY’S, 4275 Mission Bay Drive. 7 p.m. $15. www.dizzysjazz.com

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THURSDAY · SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

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COAST GUARD >>
CONT. FROM PG. 6

 inspector needs to know every single detail about the complex systems on commercial vessels and safety-drill procedures.

“The amount of expertise is enormous, and just maintaining that expertise by making sure we are as proficient as we possibly can be is one area,” said Mahoney.

His second goal is to continue to build and strengthen partnerships with other organizations. USCG operations require extensive collaboration with myriad agencies ranging from the Department of Homeland Security and Border Patrol to local, county and federal agencies, and their neighbor with whom they share the bay — the San Diego Harbor Police.

On Aug. 4, Sector San Diego held its annual Coast Guard Day festivities, celebrating the anniversary of Coast Guard’s establishment in 1790.

Drop in for Lunch and Enjoy One of Many Delicious Choices for Just $6.95

W onderful things are happening at Chateau La Jolla Inn’s Normandy Dining Room since the arrival of the well known San Diego Chef Damaso Lee. Formerly Executive Chef of Trattoria Acqua in La Jolla, lovers of his cuisine can enjoy it Monday through Wednesday a la carte menus and Wednesday lunch specials, extensive lunch and dinner a la carte menu plus Sunday Champagne Brunch. Chef Lee is obsessive about culinary details and traditional techniques all inspired by fresh, local ingredients. Please join us for a meal and experience the gracious independent living lifestyle enjoyed by residents and guests alike.

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All lunch menu items are $6.95 and we offer nightly dinner specials and an a la carte menu plus Sunday Champagne Brunch.
**MISSION BAY HIGH SCHOOL**
- Thursday, Sept. 26, 6 to 7 p.m.: College Night, in the library.
- The Mission Bay High School Alumni Association will be hosting the seventh annual Alumni Homecoming Celebration on Friday, Oct. 18 at 3 p.m. This year’s event will include VIP tents in the end zone of the field; $2 tacos donated by the PB Shores Club; Buccaneer’s merchandise; and prime end-zone seating for the game. MHBSAA will be hosting a silent auction, the major fundraiser of the year. Those interested in sending a donation are asked to contact mbhsaa@earthlink.net for forms and information.

Congratulations to Hannah Tandy, who is one of 23 high school seniors selected from San Diego Unified School District to be selected as a National Merit Semi-finalist. Well done!

**PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL**
- Thursday, Oct. 3, 8 a.m.: PBMS tour. Join PBMS staff and parents for an informational meeting and campus tour. Come see why PB Middle has been named a Spotlight School by the Pacific Beach Community, followed by a performance by the dance troupe from Chongching, China.

**BARNARD ASIAN PACIFIC LANGUAGE ACADEMY**
Barnard Language Academy will be celebrating its grand opening on Sept. 27. The community is welcome. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 8 a.m. in front of the school with local and international dignitaries, followed by a performance by a dance troupe from Chongching, China.

**KATE SESSIONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
Kate Sessions PTO held its annual Day at the Bay on Sept. 27. The community is welcome. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 8 a.m. in front of the school with local and international dignitaries, followed by a performance by a dance troupe from Chongching, China.
MISSION BAY CLUSTER
The next Mission Bay Cluster meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 3, 6 p.m., in the PB Middle School library. There will be a presentation on the Common Core Curriculum with a Q&A given by James Michaelian, vice principal of Mission Bay High School. There will also be updates and continued planning for the MB Cluster All-Schools Fair. We will discuss the YMCA progress, as well as the new stadium project at MBHS. Please join us to learn more about the Mission Bay Cluster and help us to continue strengthening our schools.

• Save the date for the Pacific Beach Neighborhood Schools Fair, Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Mission Bay High School campus. Pacific Beach schools have made great changes in recent years, now offering a wide variety of program choices, including International Baccalaureate Programme, a Mandarin-immersion elementary, middle and high schools. Listen to students play music, enjoy food and play games. School principals and staff will be presenting information and fielding questions.

FRIENDS OF PACIFIC BEACH SECONDARY SCHOOLS (FOPBSS)
The fourth annual Ducky Derby is Saturday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Pacific BeachFest. Everyone has an opportunity to purchase a ducky (or several!) for the big race. At 5 p.m., all ducks purchased and numbered will be placed into the ocean and the first ones to “swim” to shore will win prizes. You do not need to be present at the race to win and 100 percent of the profits go to Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools to help enhance the experience for students at PB Middle and High. Ducks are on sale for $5 at PBMS and MBHS school offices and at the FOPBSS BeachFest booth.

MISSION BAY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The MBHS Alumni Association presents the Seaside Farmers Market every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MBHS Grand Avenue student parking lot. Enjoy unique artisans, deli-cious food, fresh produce and much more. 100 percent of the profits benefit MBHS.

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